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Do It!

Don't!

Do It By All Means

By William Ashmore

"Do It By All Means" and "Don't on Any Account" were written by Dr. Ashmore some time before his death, but were not published during his lifetime.

YOUNG Baptist business man. You are now beginning to set up for yourself. Junior partner at first, perhaps, with small interest to begin with. You expect to get ahead. Make a good living. Good. The Lord bless you in it, and make you to grow like Joseph's fruitful bough. Even a fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over a wall.

But would you not yourself like to take in a partner? Heed my suggestion. Take the Lord Jesus as the partner in your business. Set apart to him some percentage of the proceeds. Whatever you choose, being much or little, only mark it off religiously and dispose of it in ways you yourself may think best to subserve the Master's interest. Let him share your profits and he will share your losses with you. When you make, what a pleasant thing it will be to consider that you are sharing with Christ and when you lose—you may some time—what a comforting thing it will be to know that you have a sympathizer in him. Your gains will be all the sweeter and your losses will be all the more bearable when you have somebody like the Lord Jesus to help you carry the load.

Don't On Any Account

OLD Baptist man of business. You are a man of affairs. You have got your hands in. You know how to do things. You know how to turn over a dollar so as to make another dollar. In your own line you are an expert. The neighbors all praise you. You are worthy of praise. Your success in life is the proof of it. You have got ahead wonderfully in gaining a competency. You have bank shares; you have stock shares of various kinds. You are able to take it easy, and you can throw off a good share of your burden on the junior partners. And now, because you have got enough laid up to keep you and your family for the rest of your life you propose retiring, as they call it, and becoming a gentleman of leisure. Well, you deserve it.

But there is just where the "Don't" comes in. You have made money enough for your own wants; you don't need to work now, and yet what an amount of vigor there is about you. Why waste it? Why not use your experience and your capacity to do a little business and make a little money for your Master. His household is sometimes awfully barren of meat. Let the young men take up the bulk of the work and have their share of the profit, but just reserve a little corner in your office at which you will do business for your Master, and turn over the money you get to him. You will find it the greatest luxury under heaven.

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION

BOSTON, MASS.

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860-1Ed-15M-July, '09